

The present license structure adequately takes care of those amateurs that K8AD is concerned about. It is very easy for a Novice to upgrade to Technician and just as easy for an Advanced to do the same to Amateur Extra. I make these comments as the chair of the Question Pool Committee which writes all the question pools in use. A Novice should be tested on the VHF and UHF privileges that a Technician license will give him/her. The old Novice examination did not address VHF and UHF operating, propagation, etc. If an individual has been a Novice for 20+ years and has not upgraded to Technician during that time, I would have grave doubts as to their knowledge (surely not expertise) about the additional privileges that a Technician license will grant. The upgrade is not difficult and should be required to demonstrate that the individual does have the knowledge to properly operate in the VHF/UHF bands. The same logic applies for the K8AD's request for an automatic upgrade for Advanced class to Amateur Extra. The specific operating privileges do not expand very much, but the potential responsibilities as a VE do expand and should be tested. Again the upgrade is not difficult. A great number of the technical questions on the Amateur Extra exam came from the old Advanced. The major differences are in the responsibilities of a VE. Many long time Advanced Class did not upgrade to Amateur Extra because of the 20 WPM Morse Code test. This test is no longer required. A brief look at the new licensing statistics will show that a great number of Advanced successfully upgraded. Some of this were 20+ year Advanced. This petition does nothing to increase the number of hams, their technical expertise or strengthen the Amateur Radio service in any way. It should be rejected.